

GEORGIA

SUMMARY OF FY 1997 ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division's (EPD) Performance Partnership Agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) covers the following environmental programs:

- ◆ **Air Protection.** EPD Air Protection Branch's main purpose is to protect the air quality throughout the State and to insure that activities within the State do not adversely impact interstate air quality. EPD will work to bring the entire State into attainment with national ambient air quality standards, and will apply greater controls of toxic pollutants in response to the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.
- ◆ **Water Protection.** The mission of EPD's Water Protection Branch (WPB) is to protect and enhance the waters of the State through effective monitoring, allocation, regulations, and management of water resources in accordance with state and federal legislative mandates.
- ◆ **Public Water System Supervision and Groundwater.** The goal of EPD's Drinking Water Program is to reduce the number of community water systems in violation of health requirements and to increase the level of wellhead protection for community water supply wells.
- ◆ **Hazardous Waste.** EPD's Hazardous Waste Management Branch (HWMB) aims to reduce hazardous waste generation, assure the safe management of hazardous waste, clean up hazardous waste sites, and educate industry and the public.
- ◆ **Underground Storage Tank.** The Underground Storage Tank Management Program's (USTMP's) primary goal is to protect the quality of Georgia's groundwater and surface water and to ensure both human and ecological health through elimination of releases of regulated substances from leaking USTs.
- ◆ **Emergency Response.** The Emergency Response Program responds to the scene of accidents involving the release of hazardous materials; serves as technical support for other agencies such as fire and police; and has primary responsibility for ensuring compliance with all state environmental laws as an emergency moves into the remediation phase.
- ◆ **Information Management.** EPD will build an Integrated Information Management System that provides EPD associates, EPA, the public, and the

regulated community with a single point of access for all data related to the implementation of all environmental statutes and regulations.

- ◆ **Customer Assistance.** The purpose of the Customer Assistance Program is to provide technical and regulatory assistance to citizens, the regulated community and local governments.
- ◆ **Local Government Partnering.** EPD strives to further develop partnership opportunities with local governments in FY 97 in order to meet the objectives of the EPA Region IV Strategy Statement.
- ◆ **Pollution Prevention (P2).** EPD aims to incorporate pollution prevention into the regulatory framework of each media program. To supplement these multi-media measures, EPD will negotiate P2 environmental projects consistent with EPA's guidance and state law as part of enforcement actions. This PPA does not address the activities of the Pollution Prevention Assistance Division (P2AD).
- ◆ **Environmental Justice.** EPD will incorporate the principles of environmental justice within EPD's statutory authority into its programs to ensure no segment of the population bears a disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effect from pollution.
- ◆ **Community Based Environmental Protection (CBEP).** CBEP focuses environmental efforts (monitoring, inspection, enforcement, assistance and outreach) on a multi-media level into specific geographical areas. EPD and EPA will complete a CBEP Initiative in Brunswick in FY 97, and will continue work with other states in the Southern Appalachian Mountains Initiative.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR ACHIEVING KEY GOALS

The following tables identify how Georgia plans to support the mission of each program described above.

Air Protection	
Key Goal	Objectives
Bring the Atlanta-area ozone non-attainment area into attainment status with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone, and protect the air quality throughout the State and ensure that activities within the State do not adversely impact interstate air quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully participate in the Ozone Transport Assessment Group (OTAG). Develop an ozone attainment State Implementation Plan (SIP). Implement enhanced inspection/maintenance (I/M) program. Implement reasonable further progress requirements.
Maintain National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain an EPA-approved State-wide ambient air monitoring network for the obtainment of high-quality data on air quality.
Develop and implement a comprehensive program capable of successfully implementing all State and Federal requirements relating to both major and non-major air toxic sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure full implementation of all Maximum Available Control Technology (MACT) standards. Ensure full implementation of all Section 112 infrastructure programs, including the 112(g) and 112(j) Case-by-Case MACT programs, the Early Reductions Program, and the 112(r) Risk Management Program for major sources. Implement State-wide ambient toxics network.
Maintain an effective compliance and enforcement program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use an inspection targeting strategy that focuses on sources with a higher potential for noncompliance and identifies industry sectors, locations, or rules where additional compliance efforts are needed. Provide timely and appropriate enforcement actions for significant violators.

Air Protection	
Key Goal	Objectives
Continue a strong permitting program as a mechanism to prevent degradation of air quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Title V of the Federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, in accordance with the EPA/State Title V Implementation Agreement. • Maintain an effective and timely New Source Review Permit Program. • Implement the Acid Rain Program in accordance with the EPA/State Title V Implementation Agreement. • Implement an effective Federally Enforceable State Operating Permit (FESOP) Program, including the implementation of other programs designed to allow potential Title V sources to opt out of the program via a federally enforceable mechanism (i.e., exclusionary or permit by rule mechanisms).

Water Protection	
Key Goal	Objectives
To increase the percentages of river miles, estuary miles, estuary acres, and lake acres fully supporting designated uses by 10 percent by the year 2005 using the 1994-95 305(b) report as a baseline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor facilities, discharges and waters of the State to assess compliance with applicable laws, rules and permits. This includes: (1) compliance inspections at permitted facilities, (2) water quality monitoring programs to identify problem areas, evaluate trends, and assess environmental and public health risks, and (3) coordination of Section 314 Clean Lakes Grant projects. • Employ a watershed management approach to address issues of water quality and to conduct river basin management planning as resources are available in accordance with O.C.G.A. 12-5-520. • Resolve permit violations in an effective and expeditive manner by initiating and completing appropriate enforcement actions. Ensure the quality and reliability of Discharge Monitoring Report Data submitted by permittees through active use of the Discharge Monitoring Report Quality Assurance (DMR-QA) Program. • Develop water quality models to support water resource analyses and decision-making processes. This includes development of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), wasteload allocations (WLAs), or other control strategies to restore impaired waters or to protect high quality waters. • Process and issue in a timely manner NPDES permits, Industrial Pretreatment permits, and 401 Water Quality Certifications which are technically correct, enforceable, and of high quality. • Ensure the Georgia Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control clearly and accurately define how State and Federal water quality laws will be implemented. <p><i>(Continued.)</i></p>

Water Protection	
Key Goal	Objectives
(Continued.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address nonpoint sources (NPS) of pollution from agricultural, urban and commercial forestry sources. Coordinate and manage Section 319 Grant funds and implement programs to control, abate and prevent NPS pollution. • Ensure that wastewater systems in Georgia are planned, designed, constructed in accordance with acceptable engineering practices. • Promote public involvement in activities of the Water Protection Branch. • Manage data in an efficient and effective manner.

Public Water System Supervision and Ground Water Programs	
Key Goal	Objectives
To reduce the percentage of the population served by community water systems in violation of health requirements to 5 percent by the year 2005.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the water produced by public water systems in accordance with the Georgia Rules for Safe Drinking Water and comparable federal regulations. • Ensure that all systems that meet the definition of a public water system are permitted in accordance with the Georgia Safe Drinking Water Act of 1977. • Conduct engineering assessments and provide technical assistance to help minimize future compliance problems. Through this assistance, ensure that drinking water systems in Georgia are planned, designed, constructed and operated in accordance with acceptable engineering standards and that systems operation meets minimum standards. • Operate and maintain an aggressive program of public water system surveillance, outreach, and technical assistance for the water industry and general public. Work closely with the regulated facilities to improve the compliance of public water systems with state and federal drinking water regulations. • Manage data related to the public water system supervision program in accordance with 40 CFR Parts 141 and 142. • Develop and implement a strategy to protect drinking water from Cryptosporidium and other related microbes. • Work with local governments applying for water use of 100,000 or more gallons per day, and with existing permit holders applying for increased withdrawal for public drinking water, to develop comprehensive water conservation plans in accordance with EPD guidelines. <p><i>(Continued.)</i></p>

Public Water System Supervision and Ground Water Programs	
Key Goal	Objectives
<i>(Continued.)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with public water systems to prevent drinking water supplies from being connected to unapproved sources and prevent contaminants from entering the public water system. • Ensure the operational quality of small systems by addressing operator training and certification through a formal enforcement process that requires systems in violation to employ an operator that is licensed by the State.
By 2005, to increase to 50 percent the percentage of the population served by community public water supply wells that have wellhead protection programs in place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and monitor ground water through the continued maintenance of the Ambient Ground Water Monitoring Network and ground water quality database, and a fully functioning Ground Water Protection Coordinating Committee. • Complete approximately 50 Wellhead Protection Plans (WHPPs), representing approximately 120 wells, per year. Ten percent of the WHPPs will be focused on low income and/or minority communities.

Hazardous Waste	
Key Goal	Objectives
To reduce hazardous waste generation in Georgia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect 20 percent of large quantity generators and all the treatment, storage and disposal permittees. • Compile report from data gathered from CY-1995 Biennial Hazardous Waste Reports filed with EPD. • Prepare an annual report to evaluate the progress made during the year towards achieving the goals identified in the Hazardous Waste Reduction Plans. • Reduce presence of bioaccumulating and toxic constituents in hazardous waste by 50 percent by the year 2005.

Hazardous Waste	
Key Goal	Objectives
To assure the safe management of hazardous waste generated by Georgia businesses, industries, and governmental sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct annual inspection of 20 percent of large quantity generators, 1 percent of small quantity generators and all treatment, storage and disposal facilities (TSDFs). • Issue, deny, revoke, or modify hazardous waste permits to RCRA TSDFs as required by law. Review, approve or disapprove of closure plans for RCRA TSDFs. • Participate in selected multimedia community, sector, and/or environmental based initiatives. • Ensure controls are in place to destroy hazardous constituents in waste and reduce emissions for hazardous waste combustors.
To clean up sites where releases of hazardous constituents threaten human health and the environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate and encourage the cleanup and/or adequate control of RCRA land disposal facilities and solid waste management units through implementation of removal, treatment, stabilization or containment remedies for contaminated source material and contaminated media. Compel interim measures, as necessary, prior to finalization of complete facility-wide remedy to insure protection of human health and the environment.
To provide industry and public outreach on hazardous waste management issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement at least one EPD compliance assistance/education outreach program for a small business sector. • Design and implement a "White Hat" inspection program for hazardous waste handlers that are defined as small businesses who request a compliance assistance inspection from EPD. • Hold informal meetings with citizens, public meetings and public hearings. Hold meetings with the regulated community.

Hazardous Waste	
Key Goal	Objectives
State Authorization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuously update the Rules for Hazardous Waste Management by drafting annual amendments that encompass the final federal RCRA analogues. Continue to provide notice to EPA of new legislation affecting the state RCRA program. Seek continuous authorization to operate RCRA program in lieu of federal program.
Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)/RCRIS Reporting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adhere to national reporting requirements and maintain the RCRIS national database as set forth in the MOA.

Underground Storage Tanks (USTs)	
Key Goal	Objectives
To reduce the number of confirmed releases to groundwater, surface water, drinking water sources or any other receptors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce, by 2005, the number of annual confirmed releases from USTs by 80 percent (from a baseline of 960 confirmed releases in 1994).
To prevent releases from USTs by upgrading systems to meet both state and federal standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2005, bring 95 percent of the known UST systems into compliance with state and federal standards.
Where releases have occurred, to evaluate risk based corrective action and/or promptly address remediation of any adverse effects to human health and the environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2005, increase by 85 percent from the 1994 levels the cumulative number of sites where corrective action from contamination from USTs has been completed. The baseline is 451 completed corrective actions.

Emergency Response	
Key Goal	Objectives
To implement the State portion of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act with respect to hazardous materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparedness. • Responsiveness. • Customer service.

Customer Assistance	
Key Goal	Objectives
To provide technical and regulatory assistance to citizens, the regulated community and local governments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more accessible, accurate information about environmental protection. • Improve access to public documents. • Continue to promote the one-stop permitting concept for new industry. • Continue to solicit public input. • Coordinate with and expand the small business outreach programs for air and hazardous waste media.

Local Government Partnering	
Key Goal	Objectives
To further develop local government partnership opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to participate with the Georgia Municipal Association, the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia and others on a Citizens Environmental Education Task Force. • Initiate an environmental recognition program for local governments, including criteria necessary to satisfy to receive recognition and incentives for local governments to seek environmental recognition. • Implement the selected nonconflictory suggestions provided by local governments at the Small Communities Environmental Summit sponsored by EPA on June 12, 1996.

Multimedia Pollution Prevention	
Key Goal	Objectives
To incorporate pollution prevention into the frameworks of the regulatory programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate P2 into EPD's Air Protection Branch in the Title V permitting process and investigate the incorporation of P2 into state regulations. • Establish P2 as a top-priority measure in the Hazardous Waste Management Branch. • Continue to promote P2 in the industrial pretreatment programs under the Water Protection Branch.

Environmental Justice	
Key Goal	Objectives
To ensure no segment of the population bears a disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effect from pollution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster a greater awareness of environmental justice issues through education and outreach, both within EPD and among those most threatened by environmental risks. • Promote increased communication of environmental justice in a manner that has a measurable impact on affected communities of color and low income communities, and provide general environmental education to targeted populations. • Ensure that programs have access to information and information management systems necessary to successfully identify, evaluate, and resolve environmental justice issues. • Work with the U.S. EPA to foster enlightened communications on specific activities and/or planning for incorporating environmental justice into daily EPD activities.